

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
RECREATION LIBRARY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1870)
Idaho Avenue
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-BC

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Idaho Avenue, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622540.4946320
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Recreation Library provided 8,540 square feet of library floor space, 991 square feet of exchange retail warehouse space, and 839 square feet of exchange service outlet space. The library space provided for sorting and issuing books, pamphlets, periodicals, documents, newspapers, maps, pictures, recordings, music scores, and similar materials for the educational and recreational benefit of the military personnel and their dependents. It was designed to include office space for the librarian, shelf space, and reading rooms. The building also housed laundromat facilities.

Project Information: Building No.1870 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
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Summary Description of Recreation Library (Building No. 1870)

Layout

Building No. 1870 is a 10,370 square-foot, one-story brick building. The building has a flat roof on which a rectangular clearstory level is centered. The building was built atop a poured concrete slab, and its fenestration pattern is irregular. Centered in the front (north) elevation is an inset where the wall plane is eroded away and infilled with storefront glazing. Otherwise, windows occur in one-over-one, double hung systems, in single or triple configurations. Building No. 1870 is identical in construction and appearance to Building No. 1922, Arts and Crafts Center.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no known additions or alterations made to the building.

Function

Building No. 1870 was designed, built, and used as a full-service library facility. The library space provided for sorting and issuing books, pamphlets, periodicals, documents, newspapers, maps, pictures, recordings, music scores, and similar materials for the educational and recreational benefit of the military personnel and their dependents. It was designed to include office space for the librarian, shelf space, reading rooms, and latrine facilities. The exchange retail warehouse space provided warehouse and storage space for the Base Exchange (Building 2363). The exchange service outlet space provided for a laundry service outlet.

Significance

Air Force bases such as Plattsburgh were, in and of themselves, self-contained communities. Because of the nature of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) readiness mission, base personnel had to be housed in close proximity to the areas of military operations. Accordingly, facilities to support military personnel and their families in their leisure hours were essential to base morale, and hence to the overall SAC mission. Toward that end, Building No. 1870 supported the SAC mission by providing military personnel and their dependents with a full-service library, such as one would expect to find within the larger civilian community.

Sources

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1967 "Missile Sites Get Peaceful Use" in *Herald American "Empire,"* June 4.

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1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1961 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Accountable Record, 1961-1989.

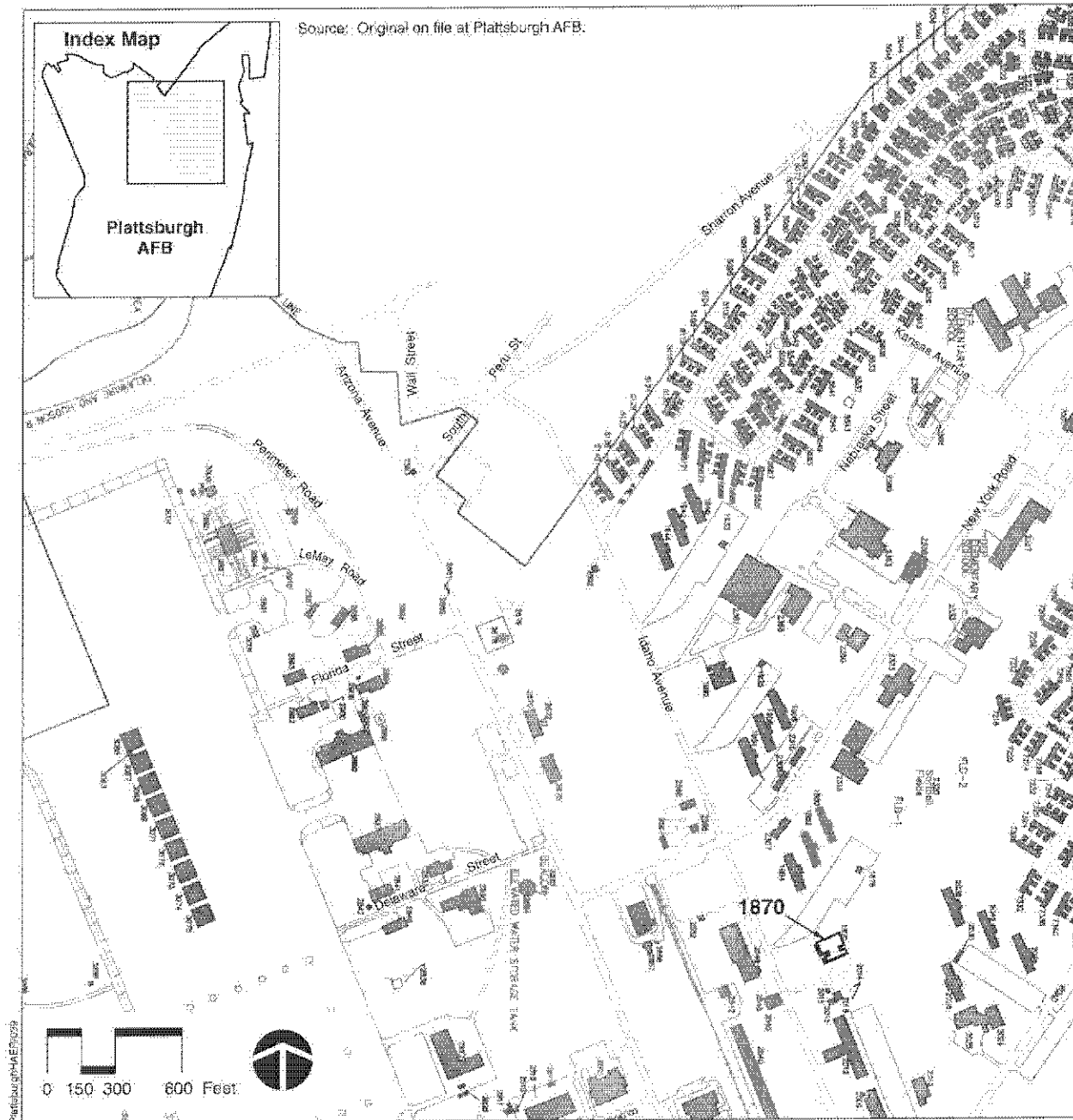
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2000 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Inventory Detail List.

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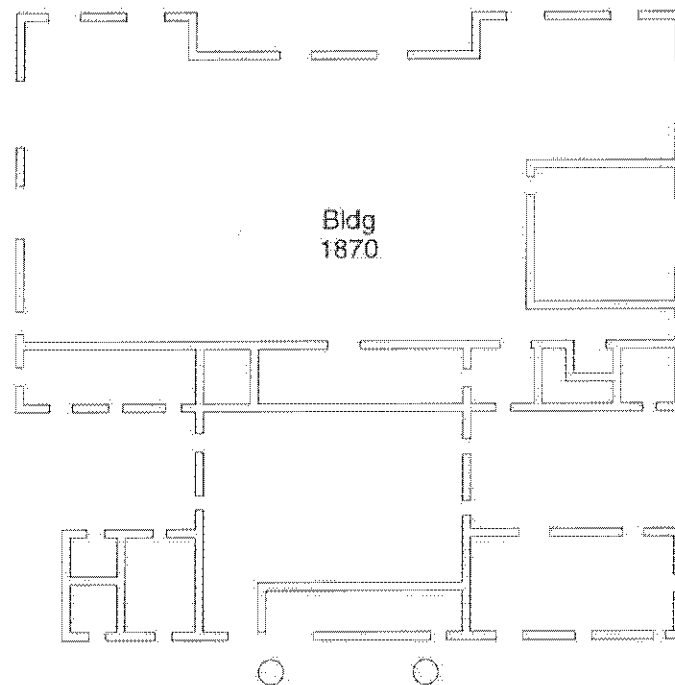
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Location Map for Recreation Library Building, Building No. 1870
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Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—RECREATION LIBRARY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1870)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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